

Army Aviation Doctrine

What is it?

Aviation doctrine consists of the following four categories of information:

- Fundamentals. Fundamental principles by which Aviation forces or elements thereof guide their actions in support of the ground commander's objectives. It is authoritative but requires judgment in application.
- Tactics. This addresses employment of units in operations and how they affect each other and their environment. Tactics are always descriptive, not prescriptive.
- Techniques and Procedures. Standard methods or detailed courses of action used by troops and/or commanders to perform assigned missions, tasks, and functions, specifically, the method of employing equipment and personnel. Techniques and procedures may be descriptive, in that they can be modified to suit the circumstances and their employment requires judgment. However, they are often applied as drills.
- Terms and Symbols. The specific language and graphics used to issue orders and control operations.

What has Army Aviation done?

Army Aviation doctrine has been evolving to meet the needs of a transformed force. Using the Aviation Transformation Plan, the latest Field Manual (FM) 3-0, *Operations*, and the integration of lessons learned from recent operations, the following backbone publications have been or are being revised (and most renumbered per U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) guidance):

- FM 3-04 (FM 1-100) *Army Aviation*
- FM 3-04.1 (FM 3-04.111) *Aviation Brigades*
- Training Circular (TC) 3-04.12 (TC 1-400) *Brigade Aviation Element Handbook*
- FM 3-04.2 (FM 3-04.119) *Security and Support Helicopter Battalion Operations*
- FM 3-04.3 (FM 3-04.113) *Utility and Cargo Helicopter Operations*
- FM 3-04.4 (FM 3-04.126) *Attack Reconnaissance Helicopter Operations*
- FM 3-04.5 *Fixed Wing Operations*
- TC 3-04.7 (FM 3-04.500) *Army Aviation Maintenance*
- FM 3-04.155 *Army Unmanned Aircraft Systems Operations*
- ATTP 3-04.13 *Theater Aviation Operations*
- ATTP 3-04.94 *TTP for Forward Arming and Refueling Points*

Results of Aviation Study II and its anticipated impact on organization will be reflected in most of the manuals listed above when they are published. Because of manning shortages, experienced military contractors are relied upon to assist in the production of field manuals, training circulars, and Army tactics, techniques, and procedures manuals.

What continued efforts does Army Aviation have planned for the future?

As stated above, some of these manuals are currently in revision. Doctrine Branch, Directorate of Training and Doctrine (DOTD), has a revolving 10-year plan for literature development that is reviewed annually or as needed to constantly evaluate existing or new publications that field Soldiers may require. Emphasis for several more years must be on unmanned aircraft systems and the exploitation of their full capabilities.

Why is this important to the Army and Army Aviation?

Army Aviation's capability to move fast, react to redirection of forces quickly, and provide lethal fires in direct support of ground elements greatly multiplies Army combat power. Aviation is also a vital player in homeland defense and disaster relief both abroad and domestically. Army Aviation's continued transformation and modernization will be accompanied by doctrinal shifts as necessary to exploit new capabilities. Every Army aircraft is a national asset that must be carefully employed to support the goals of America.

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